

L. The Determination of the German Casualty List

Feb '48

During the last war, a great controversy existed between the British G-2 and the American G-2 on the German casualty list. Of course, that list had a great bearing upon manpower, upon production, and upon German ability in the field. Finally under Dr. Martin, an American economist, there was developed a study of the newspapers of Germany. These newspapers were studied for this reason: that every German officer who died in battle had an obituary notice. That was not true, of course, of the enlisted men. But by gathering all of these newspapers and by putting them together and working out the ratio, making the necessary corrections thru the change of time and making a determination of the number of men that were killed in relation to officers, there was evolved an estimate bearing upon the number of casualties, which was finally accepted and found to be pretty accurate. It was accepted finally by the G-2 of both the British and ourselves.

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A German linguist economist during the last war, through reading the German newspapers, found a reference to a Railroad Gazette, issued by the Nazi Govt. The Railway Gazette published monthly the royalty rates on domestic oil. A special rate was given to the shipments of oil that had been made at home.

One important thing appeared in these Gazettes: first, that these rates were always published about two months before production began; second, they disclosed two places in Austria, two new oil fields, where that rate applied; and third, that in the autumn of 1942, special rates were established for shipments of oil from Baku. These are examples of scores of others where intelligence information is obtained from open sources.

During the German Campaign in France when the French forces were cut off or routed and the British had begun their historic withdrawal toward Dunkerque, an American military attache ~~withxx~~ with the Germans as an observer noticed a portfolio lying on the seat of an abandoned staff car and picked it up. Upon examining its contents the American found a series of documents marked "Fall Gelb" (Situation Yellow) which was the German plan for the conquest of France. The American quietly concealed his find and at the first opportunity got it into the hands of the British. At that time the British were stretched in a thin line, attempting to cover their retreat, and not knowing at which point the German main effort was to be directed. As a result of studying the German plan, the British ~~sought to regroup their scattered forces and concentrate them at points at which the~~ "Fall Gelb" indicated the attack would come. The discovery of "Fall Gelb" was in a large measure the reason why the British were able to complete the evacuation of 300,000 men at Dunkurque.